

February 18, 2003

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL TO MODIFY THE MINIMUM BASE FINE OR
FORFEITURE AMOUNT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COURT COLLECTION PROGRAM
COST RECOVERY (ALL DISTRICTS – 3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve a decrease in the minimum base fine or forfeiture amount from the existing \$100 standard for the purpose of court collection program cost recovery.
2. Establish a new minimum base fine or forfeiture amount of \$1 for the purpose of court collection program cost recovery.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Under the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997, the County of Los Angeles maintains the responsibility for collection enhancement efforts. On June 25, 2002, your Board approved an agreement with GC Services Limited Partnership to provide collection services to the Court.

Under Penal Code (PC) 1463.007, a county that implements or has implemented a comprehensive collection program which identifies and collects delinquent fines and forfeitures may recover the costs of operating such program if the base fine is at least one hundred dollars.

On June 20, 2002, the Governor approved AB 1819, authorizing a county to establish the minimum base fine amount, other than the one hundred dollars that was previously imposed under PC 1463.007 for the purposes of cost recovery.

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Approval of these recommended actions would enhance court revenues because the new minimum base fine amount would allow all delinquent accounts to qualify for cost recovery.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

These recommended actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility. Revenue generated by the modification of the base fine amount will be used to partially finance the County's annual Maintenance of Effort payment obligation to the State for Trial Court Operations.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Since the base fine amounts in most delinquent accounts are at least \$100, we are estimating a slight increase of approximately \$115,000 in revenues to the County when provisions of penal code 1463.007 are implemented. The increased revenues will be used to partially finance the County's annual Maintenance of Effort payment obligation to the State for Trial Court Operations.

FACTS AND PROVISIONAL/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

PC 1463.007 authorizes a county that implements a comprehensive collection program to recover the cost of such program prior to the distribution of revenue to other governmental agencies. In addition, AB 1819 allows the minimum base fine amount for the purpose of cost recovery to be established by a county.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the modification of the minimum base fine amount will allow all delinquent accounts to be included into the cost recovery program.

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CONCLUSION

The Chief Administrative Office requests the recommended action to be approved by your Board in order to expand the court collection cost recovery program.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:DL
TT:ljp

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Superior Court

AB 1819.bl